

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): ~~A stable~~ Stable, aqueous dispersion, ~~containing~~ comprising powders A and B[[],];

[[ -]] wherein powder A is an amorphous silicon dioxide powder having an average particle diameter of 0.05 to 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  and a BET surface area of 5 to 50  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ [[,]] ; ~~and~~

[[ -]] wherein powder B is a metal oxide or non-metal oxide powder consisting of aggregates of intergrown primary particles and wherein powder B displays a primary particle size of 5 to 50 nm and a BET surface area of 50 to 400  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ [[,]] ; ~~and~~

[[ -]] wherein at a given pH of the dispersion, powders A and B display the same surface charge sign, and wherein powders A and B have a zeta potential that gives rise to an electrostatic repulsion between the particles that is greater than the van der Waals attraction between the powders, and wherein in the dispersion the average particle diameter of the group A powder is 60 to 166 % of the aggregates of the group B powder[[,]] ; ~~and~~ and

[[ -]] wherein the proportion of powder A, relative to the sum of powders A and B, is at least 5 wt.%.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion according to of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the content of powders A and B in the dispersion is between 20 and 80 wt.%, relative to the total amount of dispersion.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to of claim 1, claims~~  
~~1 or 2, characterised in that their~~ wherein the viscosity of the dispersion does not exceed a value  
of 1500 mPas at a shear rate of  $12 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and a temperature of  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to of claim 1, claims~~  
~~1 to 3, characterised in that~~ wherein powder A is a pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to of claim 4,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein powder A displays a BET surface area of  $5 \text{ to } 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and a  
dispersion coefficient Z of less than 40  $[[,]]$  ; and whereby  $Z = Y/2X$ , ~~where~~ wherein X  $[[=]]$  is  
the median value of the particle size distribution, and Y  $[[=]]$  is the range of the particle size  
distribution, relative to 10 to 90 % of the cumulative particle size.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to of claim 1, claims~~  
~~1 to 5, characterised in that the~~ wherein the average aggregate size of powder B is 50 to 500 nm.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion of ~~according to~~ claim 6,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein powder B is a pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide.

Claim 8 (Original): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion of ~~according to~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in~~  
~~that~~ wherein powder B is a pyrogenically produced mixed oxide.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion of according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the mixed oxide is a silicon-aluminium mixed oxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to claims 1 to 9 of~~  
claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein powders A and B are in cationised form.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~The Dispersion~~ dispersion ~~according to claims 1 to 10 of~~  
claim 1, ~~characterised in that it contains~~ further comprising substances to adjust the pH, ~~such as~~  
~~acids, bases, or buffer systems, and~~ additives to stabilize the dispersion, ~~such as, salts, surface-~~  
~~active substances, organic solvents, bactericides/ fungicides.~~

Claims 12-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): The dispersion of claim 11, wherein said substances are acids, bases, buffer systems, or a combination thereof.

Claim 20 (New): The dispersion of claim 11, wherein said additives are salts, surface-active substances, organic solvents, bactericides, fungicides, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (New): A process for producing the dispersion of claim 1, comprising  
dispersing powders A and B in separate aqueous solutions; and  
combining said solutions.

Claim 22 (New): A process for producing the dispersion of claim 1, comprising  
mixing powders A and B;  
incorporating the mixture thereof into an aqueous solution; and  
dispersing the resultant solution.

Claim 23 (New): A process for producing the dispersion of claim 1, comprising  
mixing powders A and B in portions;  
incorporating the mixture thereof into an aqueous solution;  
dispersing the resultant solution.

Claim 24 (New): A coating slip to form an ink-absorptive coating comprising the  
dispersion of claim 1 and at least one hydrophilic binder.

Claim 25 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the content of powder is between  
10 and 60 wt.%.

Claim 26 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the content of powder is between  
15 wt.% to 60 wt.%.

Claim 27 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the content of powder is between 25 wt.% to 60 wt.%.

Claim 28 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the amount of binder relative to the powders is between 3 and 150 wt.%.

Claim 29 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the amount of binder relative to the powders is between 10 and 40 wt.%.

Claim 30 (New): The coating slip of claim 24, wherein the amount of binder relative to the powders is between 3 and 15 wt.%.

Claim 31 (New): A process for producing the coating slip of claim 24, comprising adding the dispersion, with stirring, to an aqueous solution of a hydrophilic binder.

Claim 32 (New): The process of claim 31, further comprising adding at least one additive to the aqueous solution comprising the hydrophilic binder and the dispersion.

Claim 33 (New): The process of claim 31, further comprising diluting the aqueous solution comprising the hydrophilic binder and the dispersion, until the desired ratio of powder and binder and the desired total solids content is established.

Claim 34 (New): An absorptive medium, comprising the coating slip of claim 24 and a support.

Claim 35 (New): A process for producing the absorptive medium of claim 34, comprising  
applying the coating slip to the support; and  
drying the product thereof.